



Choosing Hope
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CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/SERMONS

REVIEW OF LAST WEEK:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Matthew 5:3 (NIV)

THE REALITY CHOICE

I realize that I am not God, and I admit that need help. I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing, and my life is unmanageable.

TODAY WE COME TO THE SECOND “HEALING CHOICE”:

THE HOPE CHOICE

I earnestly believe that God exists, I matter to Him, and God has the power to help me change.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Matthew 5:4 (NIV)

“those who mourn”—What does that mean?

Jesus is saying that not until we recognize, admit and mourn our faults and failures can God give us healing and wholeness. In other words: comfort!

The truth is that we want to avoid God's process for healing and comfort. We turn to things that actually make our situation worse!

Substances	Gambling	Shopping
Sex	Entertainment	Self-pity
Anger	Food	Work

Our usual process is to _____.

Here's the problem: All the things that I think will bring me comfort only give me momentary escape at best, but in the end, there is no lasting comfort.

GOD'S PATH TO COMFORT AND HOPE IS THIS:

1. SEE WHO _____.

Question: Why would you trust God to comfort you if you believe that God is out to condemn you?

Who then will condemn us? Will Christ? No! For he is the one who died for us and came back to life again for us and is sitting at the place of highest honor next to God, pleading for us there in heaven.
Romans 8:34 (LB)

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.
John 3:17 (NIV)

But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.
Psalm 86:15 (NIV)

GOD'S PATH TO COMFORT AND HOPE IS THIS:

2. SEE WHO _____.

We learned last week that I must admit that:

_____.

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.
Romans 3:23 (NLT)

As much as we know this is true, there is something in every one of us that wants to hide from that truth, pretend it's not there and cover it over instead of just being honest about it.

... I love you with an everlasting love. So I will continue to show you my kindness.
Jeremiah 31:3 (GW)

3. SEE HOW _____.

Two negative reactions to change:

- I'd like to change, but I don't have the time or energy.
- Who are you kidding? God can't change my life.

Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding. He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.
Isaiah 40:28-31 (NLT)

For it is God who is at work within you, giving you the will and the power to achieve his purpose.
Philippians 2:13 (PH)